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WAR-GAME

PART 2

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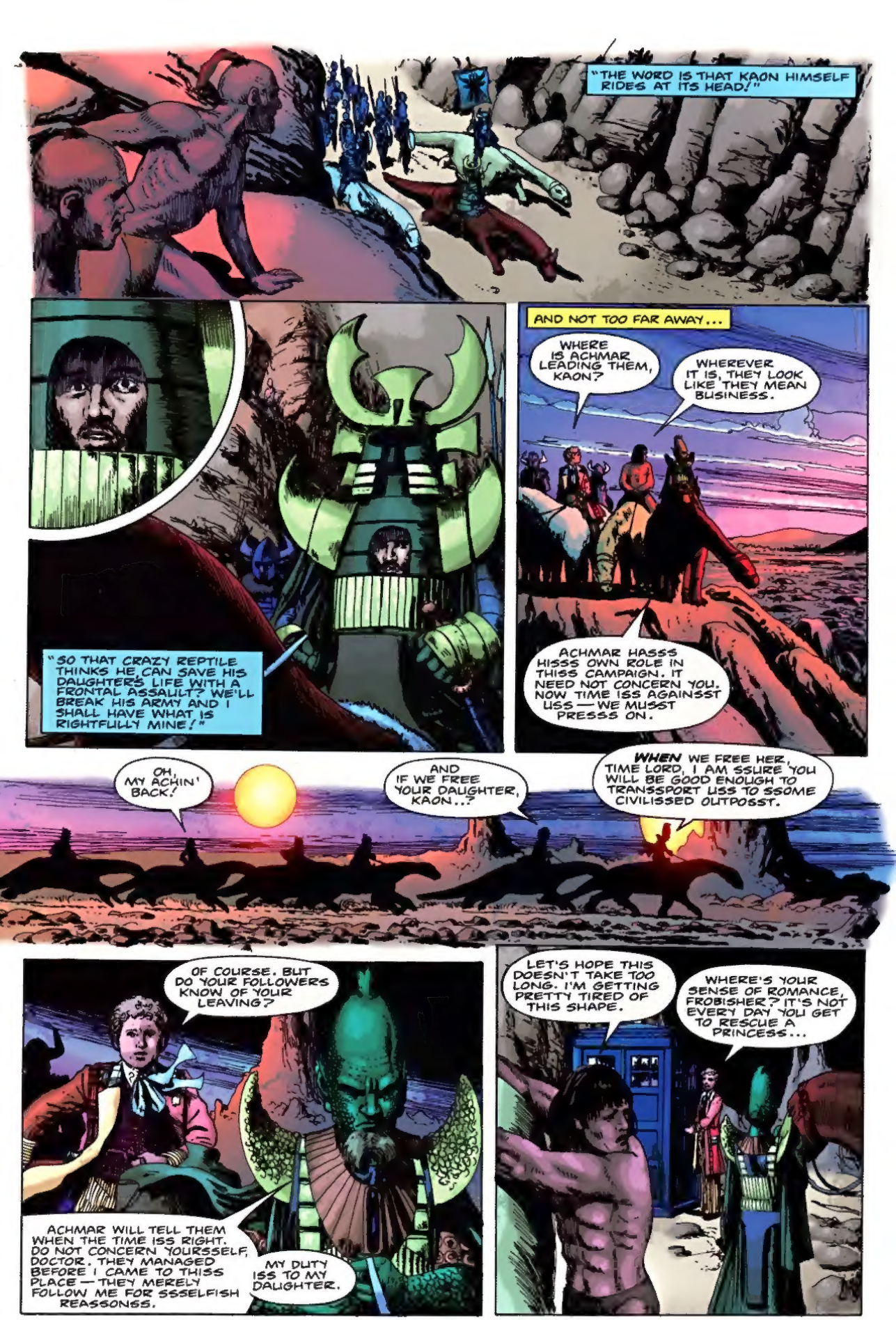
WE PULLED OURSSELVESS FROM THE WRECKAGE AND, ALMOSST IMMEDIATELY WERE SSSET UPON BY THE WARLIKE INHABITANTSS OF THISS WORLD. BUT THEY WERE NO MATCH FOR ME... I WASS YOUNGER THEN.
IN A FEW SSHORT MONTHSS, WITH THE HELP OF MY WARRIORSS, I HAD ESSTABLISSHED MYSSELF ASS ONE OF THE MOSST POWERFUL WARLORDSS IN THE REGION. I SSECURED LANDSS FOR MYSSELF AND TRIED TO BE A GOOD RULER OVER MY PEOPLE WHILE I WAITED FOR THE RESSCUE SSHIP TO ARRIVE.
BEFORE LONG, I BECAME A LEADER TO A SSMALL GROUP OF THESSE BARBARIANSSS. THEIR PHILOSSOPHIESS WERE NOT UNLIKE THOSSE OF WE DRACONIANSS AND THEY WERE FIERCE AND LOYAL WARRIORSS.
MY WIFE DIED IN CHILDBIRTH, BUT MY DAUGHTER WASS HEALTHY. SSOON I NO LONGER MINDED THAT SSHE WASS ONLY A FEMALE. I TAUGHT HER ALL I KNEW ABOUT THE ART OF WAR AND SSHE BECAME A FINE SSON... AND LIFE HERE WASS GOOD.
APART FROM THE OCCASSIONAL SSSKIRMISSH, I LIVED IN PEACE WITH MY NEIGHBOURSS... UNTIL SSSEVERAL DAYSS AGO. MY DAUGHTER, KARA, WASS OUT RIDING NEAR HERE WHEN SSHE WASS TAKEN PRISSONER BY FOLLOWERSS OF VEGAR, AN OLD ENEMY WITH A LONG MEMORY.
MUCH OF THE TERRITORY I NOW CALL MINE ONCE BELONGED TO HIM. HE DEMANDED THE RETURN OF HIS LANDSS AND THE SSURRENDER OF MY ARMY FOR THE LIFE OF MY DAUGHTER.

THAT FOOL VEGAR COULD NOT KNOW THAT DRACONIANSSS VALUE THE LIVESS OF THEIR FEMALESS LITTLE.
BUT I AM A LONG WAY FROM DRACONIA, AND MY WAYSS HAVE CHANGED.
Y'KNOW, KAY, THAT'S A REAL GRIPPING AUTOBIOGRAPHY YOU'VE GOT THERE... BUT WHERE DO WE FIT INTO ALL THIS?
YOUR MANNERLESSS FRIEND IS NOT ASS DULL AS HE SEEMSS.
UNTIL I HEARD OF YOUR ARRIVAL, I HAD GIVEN UP HOPE FOR MY DAUGHTER. BUT WITH YOUR TIME SSHIP WE CAN SSECURE THE LIFE OF MY CHILD WITH THE MINIMUM OF BLOODSSHED.
WILL YOU AID ME?
THE DOCTOR CONSIDERS KAON'S WORDS FOR A MOMENT, THEN...
TO PREVENT BLOODSHED? WE AGREE... AFTER ALL, YOU DO OWN US!
GOOD. WE MUSST BEGIN PREPARATIONSS IMMEDIATELY.
ACHMAR. THE WORD ISS GIVEN. HAVE MY PERSSONAL GUARD AND THREE EXTRA MOUNTSS READY TO LEAVE RIGHT AWAY. AND GOOD LUCK... MY FRIEND.
MILES AWAY, IN THE DARK STRONGHOLD OF VEGAR THE VENGEFUL...
MY LORD. OUR SCOUTS REPORT THAT KAON'S BATTALIONS ARE MARCHING. THEY ARE APPROACHING FROM THE SOUTH.


"THE WORD IS THAT KAON HIMSELF RIDES AT ITS HEAD!"
"SO THAT CRAZY REPTILE THINKS HE CAN SAVE HIS DAUGHTER'S LIFE WITH A FRONTAL ASSAULT? WE'LL BREAK HIS ARMY AND I SHALL HAVE WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE!"
AND NOT TOO FAR AWAY...
WHERE IS ACHMAR LEADING THEM, KAON?
WHEREVER IT IS, THEY LOOK LIKE THEY MEAN BUSINESS.
ACHMAR HASSS HISSS OWN ROLE IN THISS CAMPAIGN. IT NEED NOT CONCERN YOU. NOW TIME ISS AGAINSST USS — WE MUSST PRESSS ON.
OH, MY ACHIN' BACK!
AND IF WE FREE YOUR DAUGHTER, KAON..?
WHEN WE FREE HER, TIME LORD, I AM SSURE YOU WILL BE GOOD ENOUGH TO TRANSSPORT USS TO SSOME CIVILISSED OUTPOSST.
OF COURSE. BUT DO YOUR FOLLOWERS KNOW OF YOUR LEAVING?
ACHMAR WILL TELL THEM WHEN THE TIME ISS RIGHT. DO NOT CONCERN YOURSSELF, DOCTOR. THEY MANAGED BEFORE I CAME TO THISS PLACE — THEY MERELY FOLLOW ME FOR SSSELFISH REASSONSS.
MY DUTY ISS TO MY DAUGHTER.
LET'S HOPE THIS DOESN'T TAKE TOO LONG. I'M GETTING PRETTY TIRED OF THIS SHAPE.
WHERE'S YOUR SENSE OF ROMANCE, FROBISHER? IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU GET TO RESCUE A PRINCESS...

WAR! THE ONLY DISEASE COMMON TO ALL INTELLIGENT WORLDS.

A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS, BUT TRUE NONETHELESS.

FEW IN THIS CONFLICT KNOW WHAT THEY'RE FIGHTING ABOUT...

BUT ISN'T THAT ALWAYS THE WAY?

FOR KAON!

PHASE ONE OF KAON'S PLAN IS WELL UNDER WAY...

AHH, YESSS. THE LITTLE DIVERSSION I ARRANGED WITH ACHMAR.

DIVERSION? IT SOUNDS MORE LIKE A MASSACRE...

HEY, THAT'S PRETTY NEAT! ACHMAR AND THE BOYS ATTACK THE FRONT AND WE SNEAK IN THE BACK WAY... IS THAT IT?

WHILE PHASE TWO IS JUST BEGINNING...

VWORP! VWORP! VWORP!

NO ONE AROUND! BUT THERE'S AN AWFUL DIN COMING FROM SOMEWHERE!

"SAVE LIVES," HE SAID. HIS ARMY MUST BE GETTING BUTCHERED, AND YOU... YOU'RE MAKING JOKES.

SO HE DOESN'T TELL THE TRUTH... BUT HE'S A GOOD FATHER. BESIDES, IT WAS YOU WHO SAID, "IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY MEN YOU LOSE, AS LONG AS YOU WIN THE WAR!"

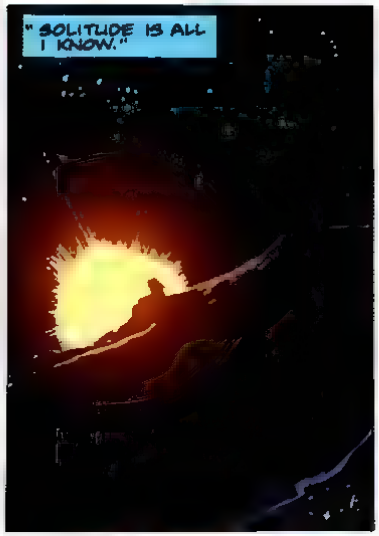
THAT WAS CHESS. THIS IS REAL... OR CAN'T YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE? I'M GOING TO TALK TO KAON.

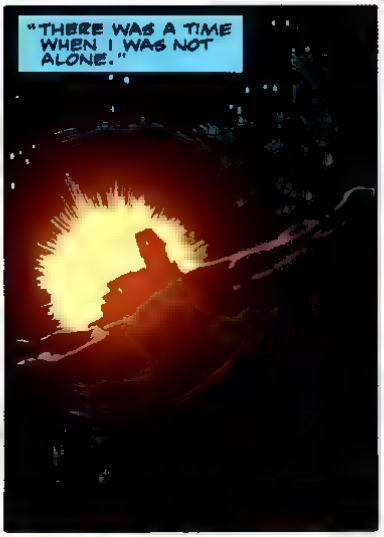
AH, DOCTOR... COULD YOUR CHAT WAIT?

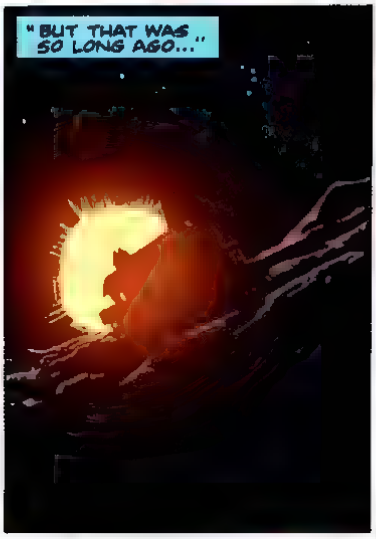
KAON! WE HAVE COMPANY!
BACK OFF, PIP-SQUEAKS. I'M BIGGER THAN YOU...
...AND GETTING BIGGER ALL THE TI— ARRGH!
OOOOH— SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA!
JUST RELAX. I'LL HAVE THE BLEEDING STOPPED IN A MOMENT.
BREATHE YOUR LASSST, FOOL!
UNNHH!
WE WILL FOLLOW HIM... HE WILL TAKE USS SSTRAIGHT TO VEGAR... AND MY DAUGHTER.
EVERY AVAILABLE MAN'S ON THE RAMPARTS, SIRE. THEY HAVE NO CH—
LORD VEGAR! KAON IS IN THE PALACE...
AND YOU, DOLT, HAVE LED HIM RIGHT HERE...
OWFF!
VEGAR! YOU OLD WARTHOG!
FATHER!
WARTHOG, IS IT? I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THAT JEST, REPTILE. IT'S YOUR LAST!

K-KLANG!
YOUR ELITE BODYGUARD, KAON? I'M HONOURED.
K-K-KRUNCH!
BUT I HOPE THEY GUARDED YOU...
THWIPP!
...BETTER THAN THEY GUARDED THEMSELVES.
NNARRGH!
I NEED NO GUARDSS, VEGAR. DEFEND YOURSSELF.
NOW'S OUR CHANCE. FREE THE GIRL, QUICKLY.
CLANG! CLANG!
CLANG!
CLANG!
CLANG!
ERK!

FATHER. I NEVER THOUGHT...
HUSSH, CHILD. THE TIME TO TALK WILL BE LATER. NOW WE ARE GOING HOME... TO DRACONIA.
NOW, TIME L-- AARRGH!
NO!
SSSHING!
THE MINUTES DRAG PAST, BUT KARA IS RELUCTANT TO LEAVE HER FATHER...
WE'D BETTER ALL GET OUT OF HERE, DOCTOR... I'D HATE TO BE CAUGHT RED-HANDED BY THE LOCALS, WITH ALL THESE STIFFS.
THIS TIME, I CAN FORGIVE YOUR CAUTION, FROBISHER...
KARA, YOU CAN DO NOTHING MORE HERE. WE MUST LEAVE BEFORE WE'RE FOUND.
YOU LEAVE, TIME-TRAVELLER. I HAVE NO PLACE AWAY FROM THISS WORLD. I'M SSSTAYING. TO BURY MY FATHER AND GUIDE HISSS PEOPLE.
THEY NEED ME NOW, MORE THAN EVER.
GOODBYE, PRINCESS KARA...
C'MON, DOCTOR. THE TARDIS IS WAITING.
THE END.







FUNHOUSE

PART 1

"... SO LONG."

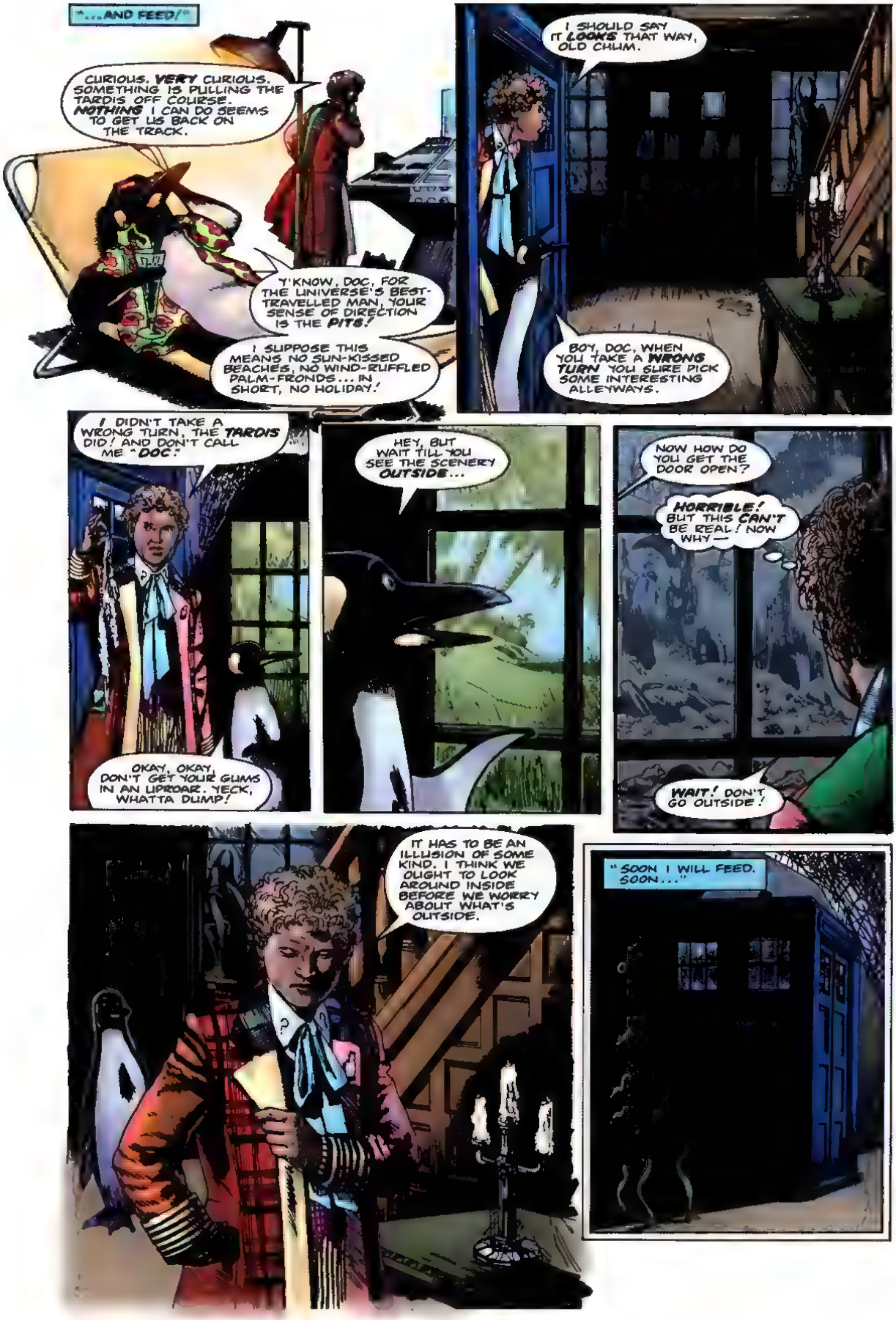
"IT SEEMS AN AGE SINCE I LAST HAD NOURISHMENT. THERE IS NONE IN THIS PLACE."

"I HAVE SURVIVED ON MY PATIENCE. WAITING FOR THE TIME WHEN OTHERS COME. WAITING IN THE SILENCE."

"NOW I AM DONE WITH WAITING. MY PATIENCE HAS BEEN REWARDED. MY SOLITUDE IS AT AN END. THERE IS LIFE NEARBY. LIFE AND ENERGY .."

"ALL I NEED TO DO IS REACH OUT .."

Script: Max Stockbridge Art: John Ridgway Lettering: Annie Halfacree Editor: Cefn Ridout


"...AND FEED/"
CURIOUS. VERY CURIOUS. SOMETHING IS PULLING THE TARDIS OFF COURSE. NOTHING I CAN DO SEEMS TO GET US BACK ON THE TRACK.
Y'KNOW, DOC, FOR THE UNIVERSE'S BEST-TRAVELLED MAN, YOUR SENSE OF DIRECTION IS THE PITS!
I SUPPOSE THIS MEANS NO SUN-KISSED BEACHES, NO WIND-RUFFLED PALM-FRONDS... IN SHORT, NO HOLIDAY!
I SHOULD SAY IT LOOKS THAT WAY, OLD CHUM.
BOY, DOC, WHEN YOU TAKE A WRONG TURN YOU SURE PICK SOME INTERESTING ALLEYWAYS.
I DIDN'T TAKE A WRONG TURN, THE TARDIS DID! AND DON'T CALL ME "DOC."
OKAY, OKAY, DON'T GET YOUR GUMS IN AN UPROAR. YECK, WHATTA DUMP!
HEY, BUT WAIT TILL YOU SEE THE SCENERY OUTSIDE...
NOW HOW DO YOU GET THE DOOR OPEN?
HORRIBLE! BUT THIS CAN'T BE REAL! NOW WHY—
WAIT! DON'T GO OUTSIDE!
IT HAS TO BE AN ILLUSION OF SOME KIND. I THINK WE OUGHT TO LOOK AROUND INSIDE BEFORE WE WORRY ABOUT WHAT'S OUTSIDE.
"SOON I WILL FEED. SOON..."

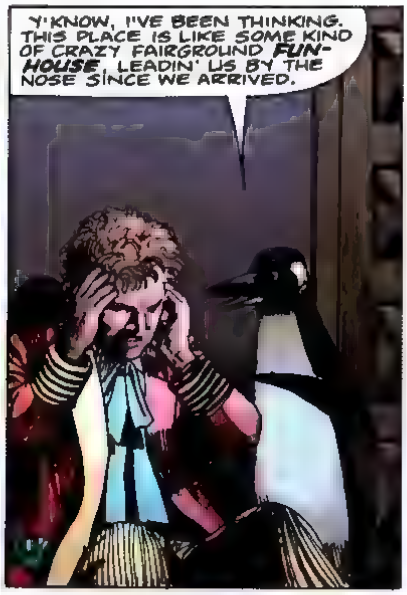
GOOD THINKING. I'LL TAKE THE TOP FL--
CRASH!
ER... I'LL STICK WITH YOU.
UNTIL WE HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, WE SHOULD STICK TOGETHER.
STAY CLOSE TO THE CANDLES. THESE STAIRS COULD BE TREACHEROUS.
READY?
AS I'LL EVER BE.
H'MM. STILL WARM...
SO IS THIS!
NONE OF THIS MAKES ANY SENSE. IT'S LIKE SOME KIND OF BAD DREAM!
I THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE.
"NO! THEY MUST STAY."

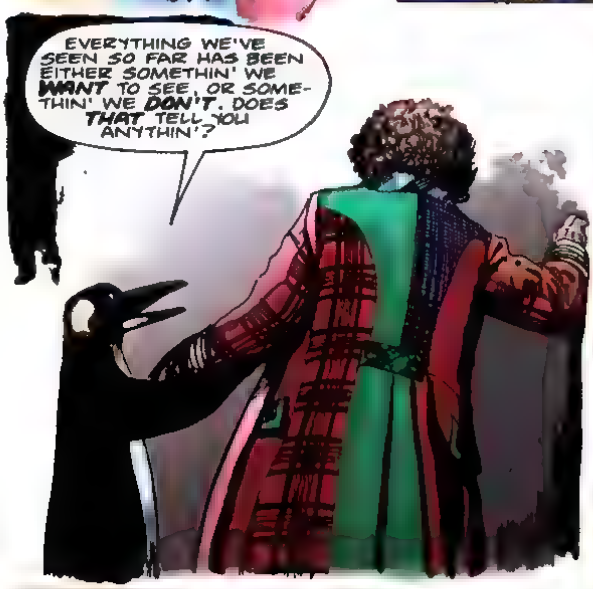
AAAIIEEEE!
WADDLE YOUR FLIPPERS, FROBISHER — IT CAME FROM UP HERE.
HELP ME, DOCTOR!
PERI!
THE KEYS... THE KEYS... ON THE TABLE.
PERI, WHAT HAPPENED? HOW BADLY ARE YOU HURT?
NOW!
I'M NOT HURT... I'M FINE...
BOOMPH!
"NONE MAY GO BEFORE I HAVE HAD MY NOURISHMENT..."
WHA...?
YIKES!
I LIKED YOUR FIRST IDEA BEST. LET'S LEAVE!

WAIT A MINUTE! THIS ISN'T WHERE WE CAME IN!
OOOF!
WELL, ASK THAT GUY THE WAY OUT.
AH, EXCUSE ME. I WONDER IF YOU COULD HELP US. MY FRIEND AND I SEEM TO BE LOST. PERHAPS YOU COULD DIRECT US BACK TO...
...THE FRONT DOOR.
MAYBE HE DOESN'T KNOW THE WAY, EITHER.
I DON'T THINK HE EVEN EXISTS, FROBISHER. I JUST WISH I KNEW WHAT THESE ILLUSIONS ARE ALL ABOUT.
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT THEY'RE ABOUT — SOMEONE DOESN'T WANT US TO FIND OUR WAY BACK TO THE TARDIS.
AGREED. BUT WHY?
"SUCH POWER. SUCH ENERGY. I MUST HAVE IT ALL."

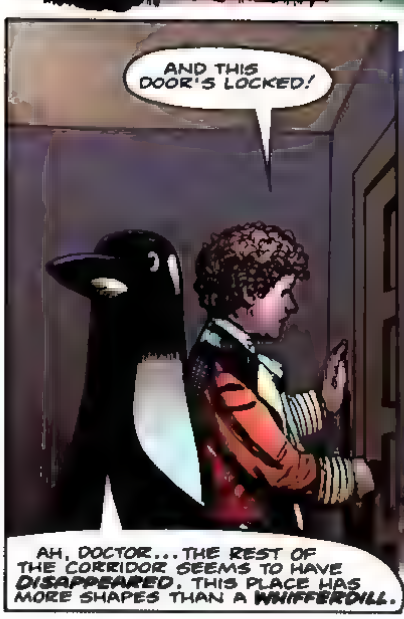
UNHHH!

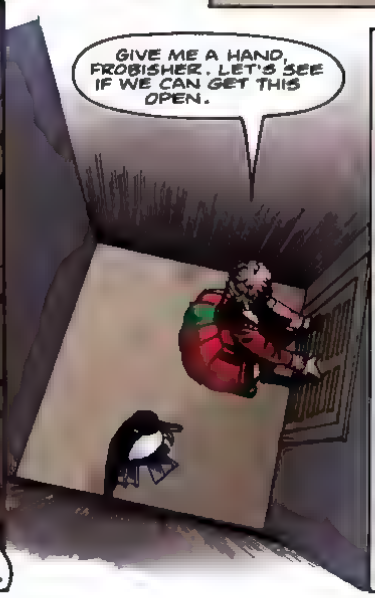
DOCTOR! WHAT'S UP? YOU OKAY?
THE TARDIS. THE TARDIS IS UNDER ATTACK.


Y'KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING. THIS PLACE IS LIKE SOME KIND OF CRAZY FAIRGROUND FUN-HOUSE, LEADIN' US BY THE NOSE SINCE WE ARRIVED.


EVERYTHING WE'VE SEEN SO FAR HAS BEEN EITHER SOMETHIN' WE WANT TO SEE, OR SOMETHIN' WE DON'T. DOES THAT TELL YOU ANYTHIN'?

MAYBE THIS WHOLE PLACE IS AN ILLUSION...
THIS IS NO ILLUSION. THE WALL'S SOLID.


AND THIS DOOR'S LOCKED!
AH, DOCTOR... THE REST OF THE CORRIDOR SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED. THIS PLACE HAS MORE SHAPES THAN A WHIFFERDILL.


GIVE ME A HAND, FROBISHER. LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GET THIS OPEN.

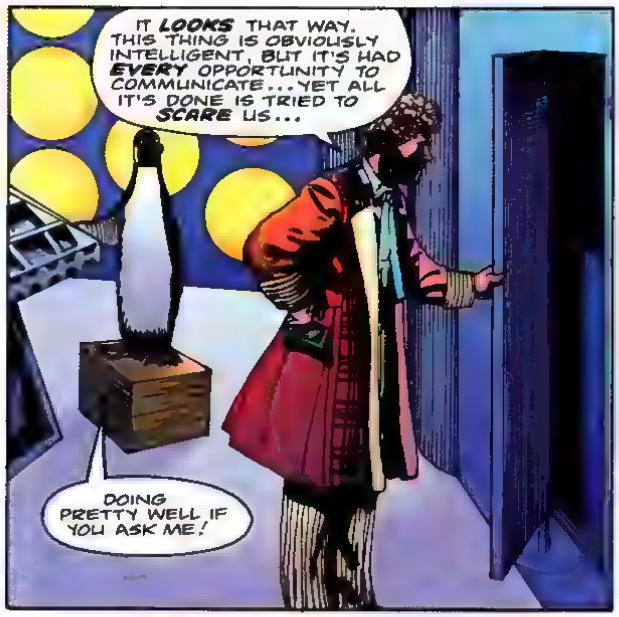
"I MUST SEARCH AND PROBE UNTIL CONTROL IS MINE."

GOOD GALLIFREY!
QUICKLY!! THEY'VE SPOTTED US!
I DON'T KNOW IF THEY ARE REAL OR IMAGINARY...
BUT I DON'T WANT TO FIND OUT!
WELL, THIS AREA HAS 'IMAGINED' IT'S A CORRIDOR AGAIN!
"FINALLY, CONTACT! CONTROL IS MINE."

WE'RE TOO LATE. THE TARDIS IS UNDER ANOTHER'S CONTROL.
THE TARDIS! SOMEONE'S STEALING THE SHIP!
WHAT'RE WE GOING TO DO? WE CAN'T JUST STAY HERE FOREVER.
VWORP! VWORP! VWORP! VWORP!
WHAT'S HAPPENING, DOCTOR. WHY IS THE TARDIS STILL HERE?
I SHOULD SAY IT'S QUITE SIMPLE. THIS HOUSE HAS SOMEHOW JOINED WITH THE TARDIS. IT'S NOT THE TARDIS THAT'S TAKEN OFF, IT'S THE WHOLE HOUSE. AND US ALONG WITH IT!
POLICE PUBLIC CALL BOX
VWORP! VWORP!

FUNHOUSE

Script: *Max Stockbridge* Art: *John Ridgway* Lettering: *Annie Halfacree* Editor: *Cefn Ridout*


IT LOOKS THAT WAY. THIS THING IS OBVIOUSLY INTELLIGENT, BUT IT'S HAD EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE... YET ALL IT'S DONE IS TRIED TO SCARE US...
DOING PRETTY WELL IF YOU ASK ME!

I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I CUT US LOOSE...
YOU'RE THE BOSS, BUT I THINK YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE. IT CAN'T BE THAT SIMPLE...

WHEN THE DIRECT APPROACH FAILS, THEN WE CAN WORK ON BEING DEVIOUS. BUT FIRST...
TSK!

JUST NEEDS TO BE SHOWN WHOSE TARDIS THIS IS...
FOR A SMART GUY, YOU CAN BE AWFULLY DUMB SOMETIMES!

I THINK THE DOC IS TAKING ALL THIS A LITTLE HARD. NEXT THING YOU KNOW HE'LL BE...
HANG ON, DOCTOR, I'M COMING...
AARRGCHH!

SOMETHING TOOK THE AXE AWAY FROM ME... IT FELT LIKE A GIANT HAND... AND IT BURNED...
CLOSE THE DOORS, FROBISHER. WE HAVE SOME THINKING TO DO.
DON'T WORRY I WON'T BE THE ONE TO SAY "TOLD YOU SO"!
WE'LL HAVE TO OUTWIT IT. SOMETHING SO SUBTLE THAT THE HOUSE WON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE UP TO TILL IT'S TOO LATE.
BUT IT'S NOT A HOUSE, IS IT?
MY GUESS IS THAT IT'S A LIVING ENTITY, FEEDING ON FEAR, EMOTION AS RAW ENERGY.
THE MORE WE FEED IT, THE STRONGER IT BECOMES.
AND IT'S NOT GOING TO LET UP NOW, IS IT?
THOOM! THOOM!
EARTHQUAKE!
NO! THE SHIP IS BEING ROCKED FROM THE OUTSIDE...
BUT THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE! THE TARDIS IS A BOUNDARY BETWEEN DIMENSIONS, NOT A PHYSICAL OBJECT!
YEAH? SEEMS WHOEVER'S ROCKING THE BOAT AGREES WITH YOU... IT'S STOPPED!
SWITCH ON THE SCANNER, FROBISHER. LET'S SEE WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE.
CHECK!

GOOD GRIEF! IT'S HIDEOUS!

AH, DOCTOR... EVER HAD THAT FEELING YOU'RE UNDER OBSERVATION?

FROBISHER. DON'T LOOK AT IT! SWITCH THE SCANNER OFF. IT'S JUST TRYING TO KEEP US OFF BALANCE.

...NOT GIVING US TIME TO THINK.

TIME! THAT'S IT!! I'M A TIME LORD. I KNOW HOW TO USE TIME TO GET US OUT OF THIS MESS...

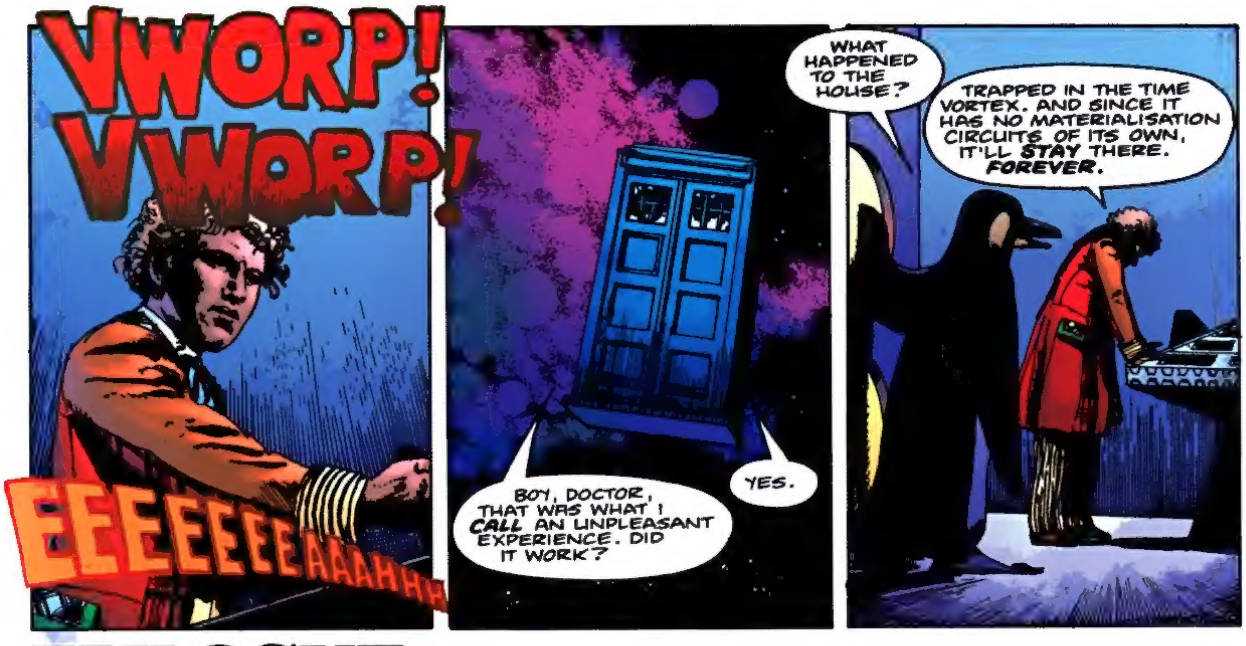
FROBISHER! LOOK IN THE CUPBOARD— FIND ME A BALL OF STRING!

YOU GOT IT, CHIEF!

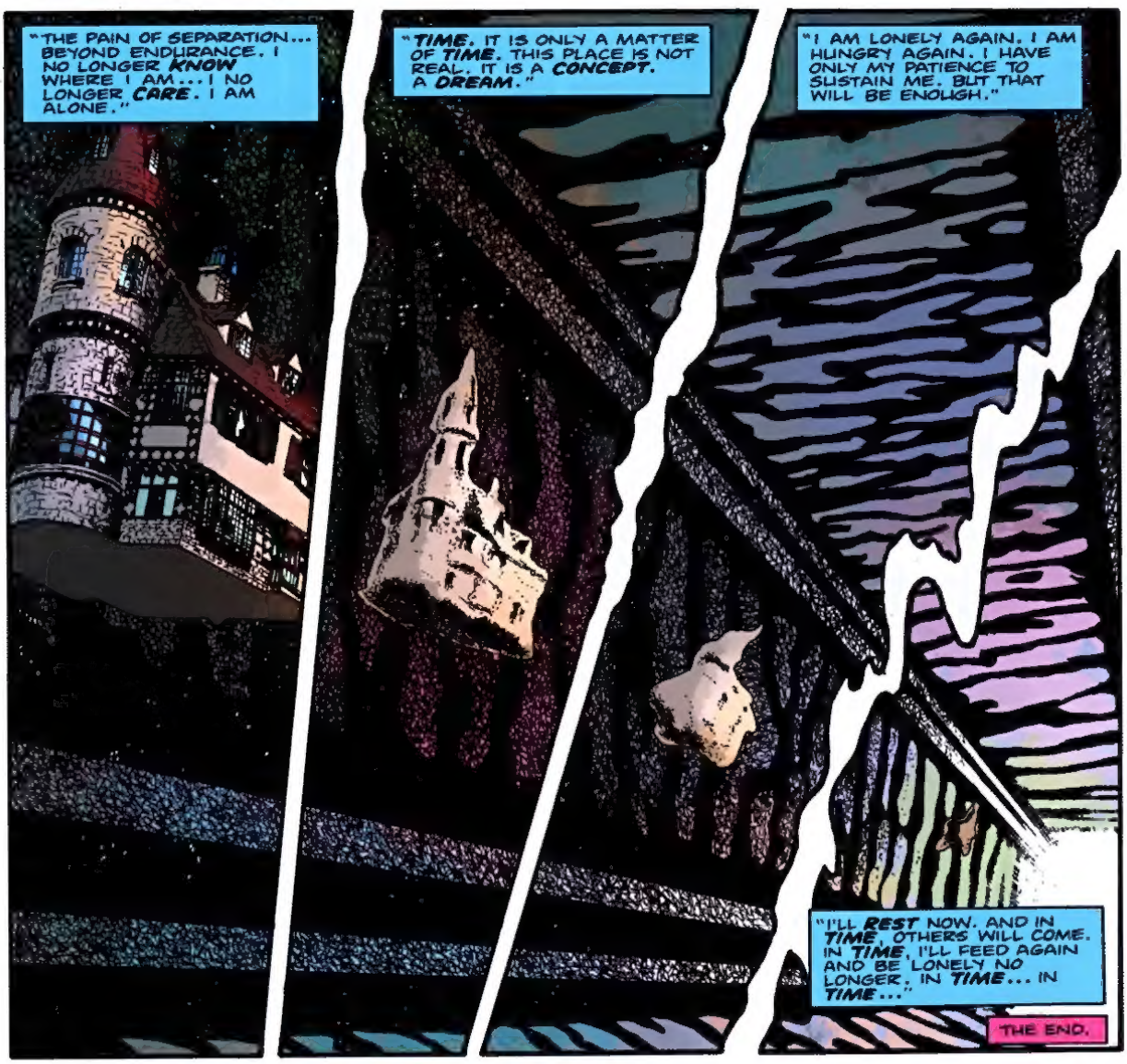
THIS CIRCUIT BOARD PREVENTS THOSE INSIDE THE TARDIS — YOU AND I — FROM BEING AFFECTED BY THE PASSING OF TIME ON THE OUTSIDE.
I WONDERED WHY WE DIDN'T AGE AS THIS BUCKET OF BOLTS TOOK US FORWARD IN TIME...
IS IT LEFT OVER RIGHT OR RIGHT OVER LEFT? I WISH I'D PAID MORE ATTENTION IN BASIC SEAMANSHIP...
AH, DOCTOR...
JUST IGNORE THAT, OLD CHUM. IT'S JUST TRYING TO GET ATTENTION. COME ALONG, WE HAVE WORK TO DO.
AH, RIGHT... OKAY... JUST COMING...
ER... DOCTOR?
HEY, DOC. WHERE ARE YOU...
..GOING?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

IT'S... IT'S...
OH, I SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, IF I WERE YOU. TROT ALONG AND OPEN UP THE ZERO ROOM... FOURTH DOOR ON YOUR LEFT... OR IS IT THE THIRD?
I SURE HOPE THE DOCTOR KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING, 'COS I SURE DON'T...
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA
WHAT'S SO FUNNY, DOCTOR?
IT WASN'T ME. PAY IT NO HEED.
INSIDE. NOW! EVERY SECOND COUNTS.
WE'LL BE PROTECTED FROM THE WORST OF THE TEMPORAL REGRESSION IN HERE. WHEN I PULL THIS STRING, IT'LL DISENGAGE THE CIRCUIT THAT PROTECTS THE TARDIS'S PASSENGERS FROM THE CHANGING TIME FIELD OUTSIDE. YOU FOLLOW?
ER, WELL... NO!
IT'S SIMPLE. EVERYTHING OUTSIDE THIS ROOM WILL REGRESS IN TIME AT THE SAME SPEED AS THE TARDIS -- INCLUDING THE HOUSE. IT SHOULD "FORGET" WHAT IT'S DOING BECAUSE IT WILL HAVE MOVED BACK TO BEFORE IT ENCOUNTERED US.
AND WE'LL BE PROTECTED FROM THAT?
FROM THE WORST OF IT.
NOT ALL OF IT?
NO, NOT ALL OF IT.
READY?
NOPE!

STAY THERE! IF I'M NOT BACK IN A FEW MINUTES, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.
T'RIFIC. THANKS!
HEY, DOCTOR. I FEEL FUNNY. SOMETHIN'S SHIFTING MY SHAPE...
IT'S NOT THAT FUNNY!
AH HA HA HA
DOCTOR, I DON'T FEEL TOO WELL...
GA!
UNHH!


VWORP! VWORP!
EEEEEEEEAAAHHH
BOY, DOCTOR, THAT WAS WHAT I CALL AN UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCE. DID IT WORK?
YES.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HOUSE?
TRAPPED IN THE TIME VORTEX. AND SINCE IT HAS NO MATERIALISATION CIRCUITS OF ITS OWN, IT'LL STAY THERE. FOREVER.

EPILOGUE


"THE PAIN OF SEPARATION... BEYOND ENDURANCE. I NO LONGER KNOW WHERE I AM... I NO LONGER CARE. I AM ALONE."
"TIME. IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME. THIS PLACE IS NOT REAL. IT IS A CONCEPT. A DREAM."
"I AM LONELY AGAIN. I AM HUNGRY AGAIN. I HAVE ONLY MY PATIENCE TO SUSTAIN ME. BUT THAT WILL BE ENOUGH."
"I'LL REST NOW. AND IN TIME, OTHERS WILL COME. IN TIME, I'LL FEED AGAIN AND BE LONELY NO LONGER. IN TIME... IN TIME..."
THE END.

COMING NEXT ISSUE: